

**Smith, Tasha**

---

**From:** Anne Hamilton <ahamilton105@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 22, 2017 11:03 PM  
**To:** JudTestimony  
**Subject:** Written testimony on proposed HB 7285

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ON PROPOSED HOUSE BILL # 7285

To: Senator Doyle, Senator Kissel, Representative Tong and fellow members of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary:

My name is Anne Hamilton, and I have been a resident of West Hartford since 1976. I vote faithfully in local, state and national elections and am deeply interested in making sure all citizens can express themselves and be heard.

I can not testify in person but wish to express my opinion about HB 7285.

Public accountability is very important in a democracy, and I welcome the mechanism afforded citizens by the process which allows them to complain about the treatment they have received from law enforcement officials.

I support HB 7285 because I think residents of all 169 Connecticut towns should have an equal opportunity to express their complaints effectively.

I am a member of the ACLU of Connecticut, and a recent poll the ACLU conducted showed that as many as 40% of state police departments fail to comply with state law regarding complaints of misconduct. In some departments, the complaint process is not accurately explained; the complaint forms are not standardized, and the process is not explained in any language besides English – a burden to many residents (and voters) of our state. In addition, many websites do not indicate how complaints may be made, and callers are falsely told they can only make complaints in person at the police department.

I urge you to enact and amend HB 7825 so as to require a standardized, statewide complaint form; require law enforcement agencies to submit periodic reports to OPM; and establish penalties for law enforcement agencies that do not comply with the law.

Establishing a transparent, accessible police complaint process is necessary to create a truly fair and just police force in Connecticut—and will make me proud to be a Connecticut resident. I urge you to adopt HB 7285 along with the above mentioned amendments.

Yours truly,

Anne Hamilton

105 Walden St.

West Hartford, CT

--